



June 13, 2005

The Honorable William Thomas
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thomas:

I am writing on behalf of the Comprehensive Market Access Coalition (CMAC) to express our strong support for the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR FTA). We support this agreement because it is comprehensive – no product or sector has been excluded – and because it will deliver solid economic benefits to the United States.

CMAC is an organization of 72 companies, trade associations and agriculture groups that strongly adhere to the belief that U.S. trade agreements must be comprehensive in order to win the best deal for American workers, farmers and consumers. We are in the best position to secure maximum access for U.S. products in the world market if we are prepared to put all trade issues on the table. This principle is true for bilateral agreements and even more so for negotiations on the multilateral Doha Round. America owes it to our hard working farmers, our high value technological innovators, our intellectual property owners and our industrial manufacturers to continue to secure the best outcome for them in all trade agreements. All they ask is to be allowed to compete on a level playing field, which is what CAFTA-DR delivers and should be the goal for every trade agreement negotiated by the U.S.

The Administration and Congress are under pressure from some to nullify the sugar provisions in the CAFTA-DR agreement and/or to commit the U.S. to excluding sugar from this agreement and future agreements. We urge you to resist such demands and reject any amendments affecting sugar.

Market-opening trade agreements are vital tools to ensure that American farmers, workers and businesses can compete on fair and transparent terms. These agreements are more important than ever, given the intense competitive pressures of today's global marketplace. Now is the time for the U.S. to

demonstrate to our trading partners that narrow protectionist interests will not be allowed to undermine the value of these important measures.

Mr. Chairman, we urge the Ways & Means Committee to report CAFTA-DR without amendments and urge its prompt approval by the Congress.

Respectfully,



R.D. Folsom
Executive Director

ABB
AdvaMed
Altria Group, Inc.
American Apparel & Footwear
Association
American International Automobile
Dealers Association
American Meat Institute
American Peanut Product
Manufacturers, Inc.
American Soybean Association
Association of American Chambers of
Commerce in Latin America
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Baxter Healthcare
Brown-Forman
Campbell Soup Company
Cargill, Incorporated
Caterpillar Inc.
Chevron Corporation
Citigroup
Consumers for World Trade
Corn Refiners Association
D.D. Williamson & Co., Inc.
Detex Corporation
Diageo
Distilled Spirits Council of the United
States, Inc. (DISCUS)
EDS
Elanco
Eli Lilly
FedEx Corp.
Footwear Distributors & Retailers
of America
Fonterra (USA) Inc.

General Electric Company
Grocery Manufacturers of America
H.J. Heinz Company
International Chem-Crete Inc.
International Dairy Foods Association
Louis Dreyfus Corporation
Lynxs CargoPorts
Mars, Incorporated
Medtronic, Inc.
Motorola Inc.
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Confectioners Association
National Electrical Manufacturers
Association
National Feed and Grain Association
National Foreign Trade Council
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Retail Federation
North American Export Grain
Association
Northwest Horticultural Council
Pet Food Institute
Pfizer Inc.
PhRMA
The Procter & Gamble Company
Seaboard Corporation
Sweetener Users Association
Travel Goods Association
Tyson Foods Inc.
Unilever United States, Inc.
UPS
USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council
USA Rice Federation
United States Association of Importers of
Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Council for International
Business (USCIB)
U.S. Rice Producers Association
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Washington Apple Commission
Wheat Export Trade Education
Committee